

VICTIM FOUND SHOT IN CITY LINE FIELD

City Puts Curfew On Southwood

A weekend curfew aimed at eliminating all-night picketing and sit-ins at the Don Wilson offices in the Southwood Riviera tract was unanimously passed last night by the Torrance city council and goes into effect immediately.

The emergency ordinance establishes a maximum \$500 fine and six months in jail for anyone convicted of being on the streets, alleys, ways, sidewalks or other publicly used areas of the tract between 7 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. Sundays, and between 7 p.m. Sundays and 7 a.m. Mondays. Residents of the tract, their guests, public officers, and accredited members of news media are exempt.

Parking Prohibited
The ordinance further prohibits parking of any vehicle on the street between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. on the weekends, and permits tow-away of illegally parked cars.

Action by the council came at requests of Southwood residents for protection of their property and privacy rights after a stormy session that included arguments over a proposed human rights council and a suggestion that councilmen issue a "declaration of welcome" to all races and creeds.

The emergency ordinance said the council had determined that the conduct of persons during the nighttime in the area had been such as to endanger the health, welfare and safety of the citizens of Torrance and those living in and near the tract. The council also said:

A continuing threat exists of riotous conduct.

Threats Reported
Numerous threats of assault and battery by non-residents and demonstrators have occurred.

Altercations between demonstrators and residents have been threatened.

Numerous instances of trespassing on private property have been reported by residents of the tract.

Loud noises, singing and disorderly conduct by the demonstrators and curious onlookers has seriously disturbed the peace and quiet of the neighborhood.

Incidents of lewd and indecent exposure have been reported to the city.

Over the weekend, CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) pickets continued their demonstrations accusing developer Don Wilson of not selling to Negroes, and began their all-night sit-in immediately upon arrival Saturday afternoon. A mixed group of about 28 whites and Negroes crowded into the sales office, equipped with food, cigars, blankets, thermoses, books, and sacked in for the night. They sang, played guitars, and lay closely packed together.

Violence Prophesied
A spokesman for the group, Woodrow Coleman, a Negro, told The Press his group wanted Wilson to stop discriminating, but admitted that despite Wilson's statement that he would sell to Negroes, the group did not plan to test the statement.

Coleman also said his group had probably reached the peak of its efforts to attract attention in Torrance and foresaw a decline in interest. "Violence might

well be the next step," he prophesied, adding quickly that such violence would not "come from CORE." Police Lt. Douglas C. Cook, developer Wilson and the editor of The Press heard Coleman say that he anticipated violence as a necessary adjunct to CORE's activities in Torrance.

On Sunday, an attempt by an unidentified car and driver to run down a picket was reported to police, and one homeowner was accused by a Caltech student who was taking pictures for CORE of knocking him down.

Forty sit-ins arrested on two earlier weekends were due in court this Friday in Torrance on trespassing and disturbing the peace charges. Wilson has sought to dismiss the charges, but the city has indicated it plans to prosecute. The American Civil Liberties Union is defending the sit-ins.

At last night's council meeting, Mrs. Helen Wilson, a Torrance resident, asked council to establish a human rights council or commission. She said integration was inevitable and morally right, and she felt Torrance should take the initiative.

'Christian Thing to Do'
Roger Mills of Torrance spoke up for a private citizens' committee apart from official city government. He said that he was otherwise in accord with Mrs. Wilson. "It's the only American thing and the only Christian thing to do," he said, referring to housing integration.

Forest G. Beyrer, realtor in Gardena, and secretary for the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors for four years until this past March, charged that "Negroes are systematically kept out of the whole South Bay District." Beyrer added "I know the attitude of realtors here. Business leaders want the Negroes kept out of the area. We know qualified Negro buyers have got the brush-off and have been unable to buy in general."

Asked if he had ever sold to a Negro, Beyrer replied "I never did. I was never approached by a Negro." Loud laughter from the packed chamber room greeted his remark.

'Have to Accept This'
Councilman George Vico asked "What do you expect us to do? We have a problem here — it's all over the United States. I guess actually we'll have to accept this some day!"

Mrs. Celia Lawler, a Southwood tract resident, read a letter signed by more than 350 Southwooders, thanking the council for its cooperation and praising the police department for controlling the June 29 demonstration and preventing violence.

"Without . . . the help of the Torrance police department there might have been uncertainty, confusion and fear among the Southwood homeowners," the letter said.

It added "Thousands of outsiders poured into our quiet residential neighborhood that Saturday; curious onlookers, deliberate trouble-makers, religious and racial fanatics, and the demonstrators themselves. The elements were all present for what could have ended in a riot that might have scarred our neighborhood and (Continued on Page C13)

READ IT FIRST IN THE PRESS

THE PRESS

3238 SEPULVEDA BLVD. — Phone DA 5-1515

VOLUME XV, NUMBER 24 WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1963 10c A COPY



SADDLED UP — Art Harkness, left, and Julio Azpeitia, of Torrance Mounted Police prepare to go out on recent training drill as crack reserve unit gets ready for annual rodeo Saturday and Sunday Aug. 3 and 4 as climax to Rancho Days set for July 31 to Aug. 4 on grounds east of Del Amo Shopping Center. Torrance Junior Chamber and Torrance Mounted Police Assn. will co-sponsor event which includes carnival and midway events. —PRESS photo.

2 Torrance Policemen Jailed in Holdup

Two Torrance police officers were arraigned this morning in Inglewood on charges of robbing two women at gunpoint of \$1,700.

The officers, Roger L. Jacobson, 25, and Robert W. Keith, 26, both reportedly admitted to Los Angeles police they took part in the holdup of two women who had approached a night deposit drop of the Security First National Bank at 83rd Street and Vermont, Los Angeles, Saturday with weekend dress shop receipts of \$1,705.60.

Jacobson told police he was hard pressed for money because of losses gambling on horse races and at poker. Jacobson, on the force since November, 1961, was formerly a deputy sheriff. He is married and has two children, and lives at 3610 Emerald St.

Recently Divorced
Keith, on the force since September, 1959, was recently divorced and remarried in Tijuana and may have had financial problems in connection with his marital situation, according to Cpt. John Maestri of Torrance police.

Maestri said he was shocked at disclosure of the charges against Jacobson and Keith, and added that these were the first two Torrance officers ever accused of any crime.

Chief Percy Bennett suspended both officers pending outcome of the charges, but indicated that even if the two were acquitted it was unlikely they would ever be restored to duty.

Jacobson, whose salary was \$637 a month, received an official department commendation in February for saving a four-year-old girl's life by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation after a play-

ground accident.

Both Have Children
Keith, of 2179 Sepulveda Blvd., denied his role in the holdup repeatedly until Monday night, when, according to police, he finally admitted his part. He denied being a gambler, but did not add to his statement. Both officers are charged with grand theft, person. Both

have children, and both served in the Navy.

The two officers, clad in civilian clothes, and armed, are accused of grabbing the money bag from Mrs. Nancy Sananigo, 39, and Eileen Thibodeau, 17, Lerner Dress Shop employes, as they were about to deposit it. The holdup man sped off. (Continued on Page C13)



SHOWN ON DUTY guarding slide area recently before his implication in \$1,700 holdup in Los Angeles is Torrance police officer Robert W. Keith. —PRESS file photo.

STATE COLLEGE SITE SELECTION BATTLE NEARING SHOWDOWN

A decision on location of the state college for this area may be made Friday afternoon by the state college board of trustees at their meeting at Los Angeles State College.

The board's site selection committee is scheduled to hear reports on a soil conditions survey and a traffic study in connection with the four conditions outlined as necessary to adoption of the Palos Verdes Peninsula site recommended by the committee.

Controversy Seen
The four conditions include available land for available money, suitable soil conditions, satisfactory community relations, and assurance of necessary services and access, including zoning, roads, police and fire protection.

A controversy which erupted at the full board's last meeting in San Diego may be heightened by the reports. Several trustees expressed dissatisfaction with the method of determining a site first, then setting criteria for it.

Backers of the Torrance

site maintain the site has been almost completely regarded by board president Charles Luckman, who headed the selection committee, and by Dr. Glenn Dumke, chancellor of the state college system.

Power Play Charged
The two were accused by Torrance councilmen of a "power play" to locate the college on the peninsula. Torrance is more favorably located in the district the college would serve, and is preferred as a site by 95 percent of the residents of the district, the councilmen said.

The county board of supervisors unanimously endorsed Torrance as the site. Representatives of Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Manhattan Beach, Hawthorne, Gardena, Lawndale and El Segundo have also endorsed Torrance, as have numerous citizens' and educators' groups.

A Torrance delegation will attend the two-day meeting tomorrow and Friday of the state college board, although the action on the site adoption is tentatively scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday.

CHAMBER PUSHES BUILDUP IN PROGRAM

Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, aiming for a 20 percent increase in membership, and a \$7,500 boost in the organization's annual operating budget, have announced plans for the chamber's first real expansion campaign in several years.

Chamber officials have

been briefed on: (1) a program of work designed to promote and protect the business interests of the area, and (2) an expansion campaign through which the organization plans to gain approximately 150 new members.

Details of both programs will be presented to the entire membership, as well as firms and individuals not now members, during a series of classified business group meetings to begin early in August. The membership will be asked to furnish the chamber with a minimum annual budget of \$45,000. A concentrated membership drive is scheduled for mid-September.

Chamber manager J. Walker Owens, urging support of plans for increasing the budget and improving the organization's effectiveness, pointed out that the Chamber needs at least that much to "handle routine functions efficiently and undertake an expanded program of work to provide aggressive leadership and organized manpower needed to increase the economy and enhance the livability of the area."

The Chamber is presently operating on a pledged income of \$37,500. In addition, the organization receives \$15,000 from the city of Torrance. The latter funds are earmarked for contract services in the fields of publicity promotion and advertising, a total sum which Chamber president George W. Post has described as insufficient to conduct the vigorous program needed at this time.

All Papers Removed From Body

A 59-year-old Negro man was found shot and near death late yesterday in a field just outside the Torrance city limits.

The victim, Chauncey S. Mitchell, was rushed to Little Company of Mary Hospital, where doctors battled for his life all night. He was unconscious from the time he was discovered and little chance was given for his survival.

Mitchell was discovered about 5:30 p.m. by a laborer on his way home who cut across a path in the field just north of Sepulveda Boulevard and four blocks west of Palos Verdes Boulevard.

Lying on Back

Mitchell was lying on his back. Torrance police, who were called to the scene, called an ambulance. Mitchell was not identified until 6 a.m. when a fingerprint check disclosed he had been arrested in 1960 for gambling. An address in Los Angeles proved to be no longer valid.

Actual spot where Mitchell was found was about half a block inside the Redondo Beach city limits and about a mile and a half from the center of the Southwood tract, scene of racial picketing and building tensions. Police pointed out that there was no evidence whatsoever to link Mitchell's shooting with any occurrences in the Southwood area.

Negroes Live Near-By
A number of Negroes reside near the area where Mitchell was found.

He was dressed in dark, neat clothes, with a white shirt and tie. There was nothing in his pockets, police said. Sheriff's homicide officers and Redondo Beach police are conducting the investigation.

Mitchell was 5-11½ and weighed 220 pounds, police said. He had been shot in the back of the head. A .38 caliber pistol was found under his body, with three shots fired from it.

There was no sign of a struggle, and very little blood at the scene. Sheriff's officers said it was likely Mitchell had walked, somehow, to the spot where he was found.

It was not possible to determine whether he had been shot by someone else, or had shot himself, pending further investigation, officers said.

The exact location was about two blocks west of Redbeam Avenue, which is the last street in Torrance before crossing the city line, and about a block north of Sepulveda. The body was about half a block from the street in the field, and near a path which leads north and west from the site.

LOMITA TOWN MEETING SET

Lomita Chamber of Commerce's Town Hall meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at Retail Clerks Auditorium, 25949 Belle Porte Ave., Harbor City. Social hour at 6:30 will precede the 7:30 dinner.

President Vince Bauchiero has urged residents to attend and to speak out on their wants and needs. A deluxe buffet dinner will be served. Call chamber manager Ethan R. Haslage at DA 6-6378 for reservations at \$3 each.

Inside the Press

Women C1-2, 4-5
Sports A5-8
Entertainment A12-13
Classified C-13-14, D1-4

Watch for Our New Friday Edition-This Week